



WAWAIIAN SNIPER



2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team  
25th Infantry Division



## Training on the Big Island

Units go to Pohakuloa Training Area to get certified

## Best Sniper Competition

Army, Marines, and Honolulu Police compete to find out who is the best on Oahu



## Command Team's Foreword

Greetings of Aloha this holiday season from the Warrior Ohana to yours. CSM Crosby and I are grateful for the sacrifices you and your Families make in service to our Nation each and every day. We are proud of what the Warrior Brigade has accomplished this

year and none of it would be possible without each and every Soldier working together with the support of our families. Whenever we visit the various units in the brigade, we see Soldiers striving to improve themselves and their teams, and we take notice. Without your hard work, we could not have gotten where we are today, one of the best Brigade Combat Teams in the United States Army.

While we are beaming with pride over this year's accomplishments, now is the time to look ahead, not behind. We must remain committed to building our partnerships throughout the Pacific, and strengthening our relationships with our loved ones here at home. In the coming year, we ask everyone to approach personal and professional relationships with mutual respect and trust, and to reinvigorate your dedication to duty.

For those of you traveling to be with family over the holiday in the more wintry weather states, use caution and consider risks while operating in those environments. If you're using the holidays to take advantage of all the wonderful things the Hawaiian Islands have to offer, be mindful of the unique hazards of the ocean and the trails. Take care of yourselves, take care of your families, take care of one another. Enjoy the time with your family, friends, and loved ones, and return from your break refreshed and ready for what challenges the year 2014 will bring to us all.

Mele Kalikimaka me ka Hau'oli Makahiki Hou

Wishing you a healthy, happy and successful New Year.

Warriors!

MICHAEL A. CROSBY  
CSM, USA  
Brigade Command Sergeant Major



THOMAS H. MACKEY  
Colonel, Infantry  
Commanding

## Chaplain's Corner



Hopefully you can look back at 2013 with a sense of pride and accomplishment. Unfortunately it often seems easier to look back with regret. As the saying goes, "We have 20/20 vision when looking at the past." 2014 is in front of us. It's going to be a year in which each of us can take positive control of our lives and set new goals. Challenge yourself to grow stronger mentally, physically, and spiritually. Put together a real plan for how to accomplish it.

Three things to remember: first, be intentional. If your goal is to spend more time with your family and play with the kids more, then put it

on the calendar. Second, be specific. Write out a list of how you intent to accomplish your goals. Break your list down into manageable time frames with clear markers of what progress will look like. Third, be resolved. Don't give up when you miss a goal marker. Stick to the plan. Persevere and push through the tough times. If you plan to attend church or some other form of worship every week, but miss it once or twice in a row, don't beat yourself up. Just be more resolved to go the next time. Get a friend or your spouse to help encourage you. I pray that we may all find 2014 to be a Happy New Year of life!

Happy New Years,

Chaplain (MAJ) Koeman  
2nd SBCT Chaplain

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### Brigade Media

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Sean Everett

A breaching team made up of squad and team leaders from two of the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team's infantry battalions and its cavalry squadron blow a door off of its hinges while practicing urban explosive breaching as part of the Breaching Academy taught by the 66th Engineer Co., 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, here Aug. 13-23. The Breaching Academy taught various breaching techniques to Soldiers across the brigade so those units would have organic breaching assets if sappers were not available.

## Warrior Brigade, a Year in Review

**SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii** – For the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, 2013 has been a challenging, yet rewarding year. The primary focus of the brigade has been strengthening our relationships with the local community and our Joint and Pacific partners.

The brigade conducted the first company-level Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise here at Schofield Barracks in over a decade. All nine Infantry companies and three Cavalry troops executed a complex live fire exercise employing all of the weapon systems within the unit and supported by 155mm artillery

from the batteries of 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment.

Another first for the Warrior Brigade was Stryker outload training on the C-17 “Globemaster III” in preparation for assumption as the division’s Contingency Response Force. 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment conducted the training at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in October, marking the first tactical outload and fly away of Hawaii-based Strykers on the C-17 “Globemaster III” aircraft.

In a ceremony at the Kroc Center, the Joint Venture Education Forum recognized four 2nd SBCT Soldiers for their work with the School Partnership Program. JVEF

is a cooperative venture between U.S. Pacific Command and the Hawaii Department of Education to promote interaction between the military and state educators. The School Partnership Program is a part of this venture and is how the Army is able to reach out to the community to give a helping hand to area schools.

In August, the Warrior Brigade had the distinct honor of hosting an award ceremony for a former member of the Gimlet Battalion, Mr. Robert Cox, who served as a sergeant during the Vietnam War. Hawaii Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard presented Mr. Cox with a Purple Heart and a Bronze

## Week of the Warrior Results

The Warrior brigade took to the fields of friendly strife in August for the Week of the Warrior. The overall champions were the 1-21 IN “Gimlets”! Bore Brother Bore! Congrats, Gimlets!

The champions in each event are:

**Washington Crossing the Delaware** - 2-14 CAV

**Boxing** - 2-11 FAR and 1-14 IN tie

**Combatives** - 1-21 IN

**Flag Football** - 225 BSB

**Ultimate Frisbee** - 1-14 IN

**Softball** - 2-11 FAR

**Basketball** - 1-21 IN

**Tug of War** - 2-11 FAR

**Soccer** - 225 BSB

Congratulations to all of the teams!

Star Medal with “V” device.

Members of the brigade staff and representatives from the battalions traveled to Malaysia in September as part of U.S. Army Pacific’s 2013 Keris Strike Exercise, an annual theater security cooperation exercise conducted with the Malaysian Armed Forces. Soldiers from 2SBCT trained at the Malaysian Jungle Warfare Wing Training Center, provided counter IED training and medical first responder training to Malaysian soldiers, and experienced the Malaysian culture. Keris Strike’s culminating event was a command post exercise simulating a peace enforcement operation and humanitarian assistance/disaster relief mission aimed at working with the Malaysian Armed Forces to restore peace and basic services during a catastrophe in the region.

The 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 2nd SBCT received the coveted 25th Infantry Division Guadalcanal Cup for excellence in athletic competition. The event was part of the division’s 72nd birthday celebration in which all elements of the 25th Infantry Division competed for the cup.

Despite the government shutdown, the Warrior Brigade continued to conduct training, even executing all scheduled training rotations at Pohakuloa Training Area on the island of Hawaii. PTA offers a unique training environment for units and the Warrior Brigade is fortunate to have built a relationship with the Big Island community.

While training at PTA, several units including B-52 from 2-14 CAV, 1-27 IN, and 2-11 FA, had the opportunity to work with Habitat for Humanity in appreciation for the support of the Big Island communities.

Rounding out the year, Soldiers from 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment partnered with U.S. Marines and New Zealand Defense Forces on the North and South Islands of New Zealand for Southern Katipo 2013. Southern Katipo is a multinational military training exercise designed to enhance military-to-military relations between participating forces while supporting the development of the host nation’s amphibious capabilities.

As the brigade prepares for future contingency missions and deployments, Soldiers remember that even with all of the accomplishments they’ve had this year, none would be possible without the support of their families who stand behind them.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Sean Everett

SUNGAI PATANI, Malaysia – 1st Lt. Alex Lovo (right), 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, and Capt. Mohd Hafizuddin bin Sulaiman (left), 4th Royal Ranger Regiment, Malaysian Army, cook fish over a fire while sitting in a lean-to shelter during the Jungle Survival demonstration at Lapangan Terbang Camp as part of Exercise Keris Strike 2013. Keris Strike is an annual theater security cooperation exercise conducted with the Malaysian Armed Forces. This year 2nd SBCT represented United States Army Pacific, and served as co-director with Malaysian Army 2nd Infantry Division.



# Waianae Vets' Day Parade Fosters Unity

Story by Sgt. Daniel K. Johnson  
2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

**WAIANAЕ, Hawaii** – More than 20 organizations, including the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division and 500 ROTC cadets, participated in a Veterans' Day parade in Waianae for the 31st consecutive year on Nov. 2.

The tradition of the parade began 31 years ago when the Waianae Military and Civilian Advisory Council was founded due to growing animosity between the local civilian population and military stationed on the island at the time.

The parade runs approximately

one mile, from Waianae Boat Harbor to the Waianae Mall. The 25th Infantry Division Band provided live music at the head of the parade, immediately following the color guard.

"We're excited to be here and support the local community," said Sgt. Brandon Holt, an infantryman with 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 2nd SBCT. "I enjoy meeting new people and letting them see who we are as people and not just as Soldiers."

"These events brought the community and the military together to get to know one another," said Albert H. Silva, a member of the Royal Order of

Kamehameha. "Whatever we can do together is important."

Members of the Koa Puna Motorcycle Club acted as road guards for the parade, shutting down the highway for about an hour using their motorcycles to block side streets as the parade progressed.

"We have 24 organizations, including eleven schools with over 500 JROTC cadets, participating in the parade today," said Rocky Naeole, chairman of the Waianae Military Civilian Advisory Council. "This is to show our community that we live in a great nation supported by the military."

The parade was met with

**Photo by Sgt. Daniel Johnson**

Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment march in the 31st Annual Waianae Veterans' Day Parade along its route from the Waianae Boat Harbor to the Waianae Mall on Nov. 2. The parade is organized annually by the Waianae Military Civilian Advisory Board and is intended to foster good relations between the local civilian population and military station on the island.



**Photo by Sgt. Daniel Johnson**

The 25th Infantry Division Band leads the 31st Annual Waianae Veterans' Day Parade along its route from the Waianae Boat Harbor to the Waianae Mall on Nov. 2. The parade is organized annually by the Waianae Military Civilian Advisory Board and is intended to foster good relations between the local civilian population and military stationed on the island.

hundreds of observers lining the sidewalks between the harbor and the mall. Following the parade, Soldiers of 2nd SBCT opened Stryker vehicles for members of the community to explore and sit in.



**Photo by Sgt. Daniel Johnson**  
More than 500 JROTC cadets march in the 31st Annual Waianae Veterans' Day Parade along its route from the Waianae Boat Harbor to the Waianae Mall on Nov. 2. The parade is organized annually by the Waianae Military Civilian Advisory Board and is intended to foster good relations between the local civilian population and military station on the island.



# Golden Dragons help kids get fit

Story by 1st Lt. Timothy McCracken  
1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Unit Public Affairs Representative

**WAIANA, Hawaii** – Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, gathered at Nanaikapono Elementary, Waianae, Oct. 8, as they do every Tuesday, to work on physical fitness with the students, as part of their local school partnership program.

The program was first created when Nanaikapono Health and Fitness teacher, Kevin Eiker, and Military Liaison, Maria Marbella, met up with the 1-14 Inf. School Liaison, 1st Lt. Timothy McCracken, in Aug. to discuss how the military could be more involved on a regular basis.

Eiker explained, “Right now each class from kindergarten through 6th grade only gets 40 minutes for every two weeks which is definitely not enough time. Recommended

is 60 minutes each day and their getting only 40 minutes every two weeks for structured fitness time.”

To address this issue, 1-14 Inf. reserved time Tuesday mornings to give Soldiers the opportunity to conduct physical fitness with the students.

“It’s the best part of my day on Tuesday mornings when you see the kids,” said Spc. Shaun Elder, C Co., 1-14 Inf. Regiment. “It’s not just engaging them to become more physically fit, but it’s getting them to see the importance of it and seeing their smiles when they know they’ve reached their goals.”

“Little things like showing them how to run better and not sprint right at the start of the half mile assessment was fulfilling,” Elder continued. “Opportunities like this make other Soldiers want to get involved because they see us volunteering and making a difference within the community.”

Soldiers and keiki are not the only ones who benefit from this program

as it sends a bigger message to those who observe it firsthand.

Marbella said some of the anticipated school programs and activities that the Golden Dragons will support this school year will strengthen the relationships with not only the school and community but also with other business and organizations as well.

The Golden Dragons continue to highlight the importance of volunteerism and community outreach by participating in the Soldier Keiki Fit program on a weekly basis.

“The biggest thing which has the most success with the Keiki Fit program with the military partnership is that the message of being healthy and taking care of your body is shown to the kids not just by me but by the Soldiers who come and model and talk to the kids about the importance of being fit,” said Eiker. “The message is something that they are really starting to buy into and you can see it in the things they do around school. They just want to be fit and they are taking it very serious so it’s been a great success.”

Soldiers recently donated additional physical fitness equipment to further assist the program and stress the priority and importance of the school partnership. The additional equipment was well received by the student body and will be used for future visits.

So far Soldiers have visited three times in support of the physical fitness program but many more visits and programs are already being planned in the near future.



**Photo by Spc. Antonio Huerta**  
Kevin Eiker, Health and Wellness Teacher, Nanaikapono Elementary School, briefs the students on various fitness stations during their health assessment. Soldiers helped motivate, instruct, and participate in the students physical fitness program which includes both cardio and circuit training.



**Photo by Spc. Antonio Huerta**  
Sgt. Allen McKinney, squad leader, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, conducts shuttle runs with children at Nanaikapono in preparation for their weekly physical fitness assessment. Soldiers show support of school sponsorships during Soldier Keiki PT held every Tuesday where Soldiers help motivate, instruct, and participate in the students physical fitness program which includes both cardio and circuit training.



**Photo by Spc. Antonio Huerta**  
1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment continued its ongoing support of its school sponsorships during Soldier Keiki PT Tuesdays. Soldiers help motivate, instruct, and participate in the students physical fitness program which includes both cardio and circuit training.



# Gimlets win Tropic Lightning Week, awarded Guadalcanal Cup

Story by Capt. Mark Wallace, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment Unit Public Affairs Representative

The Gimlet Battalion, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team claimed the Guadalcanal Cup during the 2013 Tropic Lightning Week, Oct 3 on Weyand Field.

Tropic Lightning Week was a week of friendly athletic competitions amongst the 25th Infantry Division's 17 battalions to commemorate the division's 72nd birthday. Soldiers from across the division participated in sporting events, team-building contests honoring Hawaiian culture, and combat-focused competition. As Gimlet athletes and competitors have been doing for close to a century here at Schofield Barracks, members of 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment took to the field and

distinguished themselves from the other competitors en route to claiming the Guadalcanal Cup.

Through the decades, the 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment established a reputation for success in sporting events. The culmination of Tropic Lightning Week marks the second time in as many months that the Gimlets brought home a 1st place trophy for organizational athletic competition. In July, the Gimlets were awarded the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team's Commanders Cup during the Week of the Warrior, an athletic celebration honoring the Brigade's birthday. The legacy of Gimlet athletic prowess, established upon these very same Schofield fields in the 1920s, continues.

In 1921, Private Eugene Riley of E Company, 21st Infantry Regiment organized a group of 20 Soldiers in order to support the regimental athletic teams. This group called themselves the Gimlet Club of Royal Rooters. In the 1920s, the Gimlet Club dominated every team it met during any athletic match and the nickname "Gimlets" spread.

A gimlet is a tool with a grooved twisted shank and screw point, appearing somewhat like an auger, used to bore holes in rock for dynamite. These holes were then filled with explosives to blast the rock apart; thus, cutting away sides of entire mountains to make room for railroad tracks or roadways.

Much like the gimlet stick, 21st Infantry Regiment teams were tougher than rock and bored holes through their opponents on the athletic fields. They set regimental standards and traditions of maintaining superiority on the athletic field. They adopted the Gimlet as their logo because of their tenacity and dominance on the field of play. The motto "Bore Brother Bore" exemplifies the Gimlets fighting spirit and will to win.

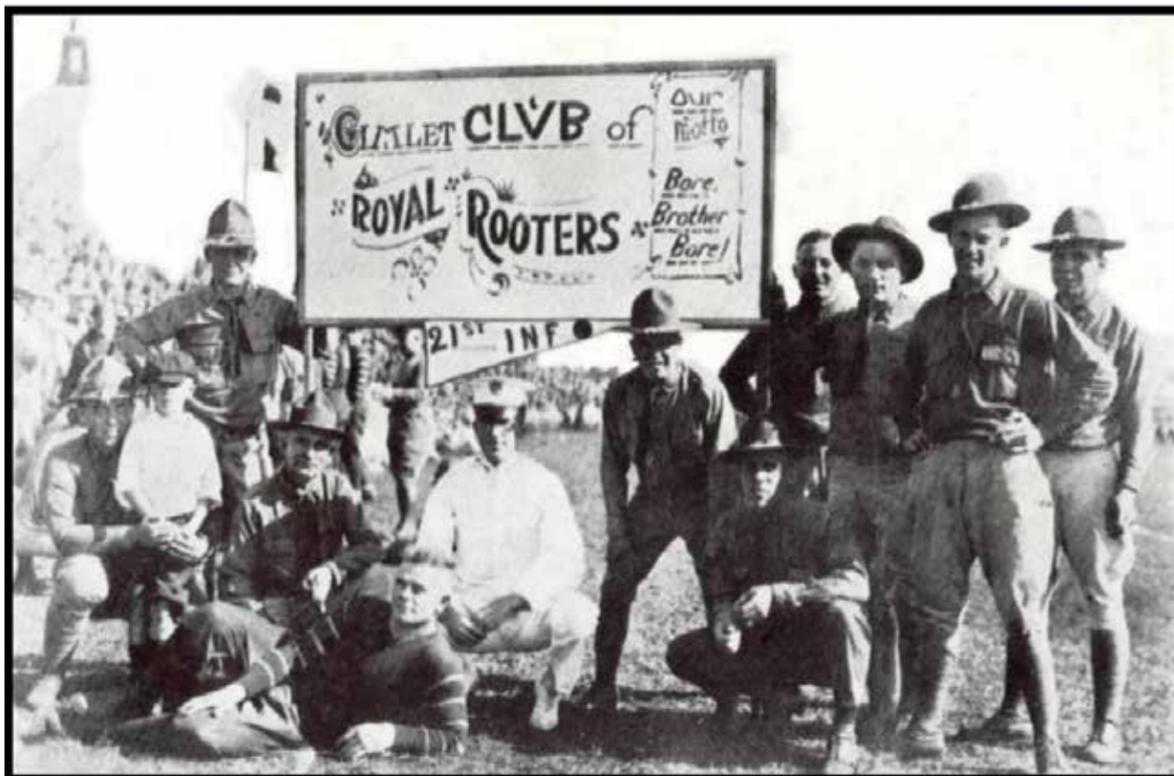




Photo by 1st Lt. Hannah Smith

Spc. Bradley Stepter, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, dons a gas mask during the CBRNE qualification round in the Stryker.

## Wolfhounds implement new Stryker gunnery training at PTA

Story by 1st Lt. Hannah Smith  
1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment Unit  
Public Affairs Representative

### POHAKULOA TRAINING

**AREA, Hawaii** – Stryker gunnery crews from 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, trained on gunnery ranges at the Pohakuloa Training Area Nov. 5-6.

These ranges served to qualify crews on the M2 .50 caliber machine gun and MK-19 grenade launcher using the Remote Weapon System in a Stryker. Two senior NCOs developed

specialized training on Stryker gun systems and carried it out at PTA, training that could not be carried out at Schofield Barracks.

Sgt. 1st Class Charles Harris, C Co. Headquarters Platoon Sergeant, and Sgt. 1st Class Terrance Johnson, B Co. Headquarters Platoon Sergeant, spearheaded the development of a new training plan for Stryker Gunnery while at PTA.

“The Stryker Gunnery Skills Test has 19 tasks that crews can complete at Schofield Barracks, but that is only half of what can be done at PTA,” Harris said. “Sgt. 1st Class Johnson and I made a

checklist of common problems we see in Stryker gunnery crews, and made that our central training plan for getting crews qualified at PTA.”

The Wolfhound’s plan at PTA included four days at Range 8, completing the training that Harris and Johnson created on common problems of crews, followed by four days at the Digital Multipurpose Battle Area Complex to qualify on each weapon system.

With this plan in place, Harris said “We go through all the agony and pain of fixing things out at Range 8 before heading over to the BAX to qualify. It’s been a team effort.”

“The great thing about PTA,” Harris continued, “is that we get the full attention of gun teams while here. Soldiers don’t have appointments and taskings to go to, the whole crew is available for training all day, and so that’s what we do.”

2nd Lt. Dave Forrester, C Co. Headquarters Platoon Leader, ran the qualification range at the BAX.

“The last time the Wolfhounds got to qualify like this was back in Korea over a year and a half ago,” Forrester said. “The time and dedication Sgt. Johnson and Sgt. Harris have put into ensuring teams are trained on something they haven’t done in a while is really giving us an advantage.”

Lt. Col. Chuck Bergman, Wolfhound Commander, also

noted and has been very pleased with Stryker gunnery at PTA.

“When the government shut-down occurred, it completely demolished our plan to go to PTA,” said Bergman. “We waited and waited and by the time the government turned back on, we could only send our Stryker gun crews to qualify without interfering with our Contingency Response Force Level mission in January. And we couldn’t have been successful with Sgt. Johnson, Sgt. Harris, and their NCO trainers.”

Bergman held an award ceremony for the individuals who have made Stryker Gunnery successful, awarding Army Achievement Medals to Johnson, Harris, and their six trainers.



Photo by 1st Lt. Hannah Smith

Lt. Col. Chuck Bergman, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment commander, awards Sgt. 1st Class Charles Harris and Sgt. 1st Class Terrance Johnson Army Achievement Medals at PTA for their Stryker Gunnery Skills Training plan.



# 2-14 CAV Lt. commands joint multi-

# national unit

Story by 1st Lt. Chase Cappo  
2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment Unit  
Public Affairs Representative

**TIMARU, New Zealand –** More than 70 Soldiers from 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division finished the month long training exercise, Southern Katipo 2013, on Nov 29. “SK13 is a multinational training event improving interoperability between American services and militaries in the Joint

Interagency Task Force,” said Maj. Jeffery Hinds, the Red Task Force Operations Officer. JIATF is made up of forces from New Zealand, Australia, Canada, France, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Tonga and the U.S. Marine Corps and Army. Cutting their teeth on tactical, logistical, personnel, communications and Intelligence cooperation, JIATF melded many practices and soldier experiences. “Working this closely with so

many different groups is almost a once in a lifetime opportunity,” remarked Lt. Col. Patrick Aspland, Commander of the Joint Multinational Task Group Red. “One particularly strong symbol of our mission here is the American lieutenant commanding a mixed-gender Kiwi infantry platoon, with privates from Papua New Guinea,” said Col. John Howard, SK13 JIATF commander. 1st Lt. Isaac Todd was selected to replace a New Zealand platoon

Photo by 1st Lt. Chase Cappo

Capt. Joseph Fasone, 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, Sgt. Leonard Collier, 2-14 CAV, 2nd Lt. Daniel Deans, Second of the First Infantry Battalion, and Marine Cpl. David Ehlers, 1st Law Enforcement Battalion, work together to piece together intelligence brought in from 1st Lt. Isaac Todd's platoon.



Photo by 1st Lt. Chase Cappo

1st Lt. Isaac Todd's joint, multinational platoon conducts a pass in review for a local civic group as part of a drill and ceremony exercise during Southern Katipo 13.

leader who was called away from the exercise on an emergency. Honor Graduate of the Basic Armor Officer Course, Reconnaissance Course Thurman Award winner, and Ranger School graduate, “Lt. Todd was what I hoped working with an American would be like,” said Sgt. 1st Class Aaron McMillen, the New Zealand platoon sergeant.

“We were tasked to conduct security operations, township presence patrols, reconnaissance missions, a platoon combat outpost and coordinate a forward operating base,” Todd said. “By the time we left, the farmer liked us so much he gave us a lamb as a token of friendship. Building relationships with the local populous is what SASO [Stability and Support Operations] is all about.”

Lance Cpl. Leslie Burnham, the platoon medic stated, “Besides the accent, it was interesting to see how approachable the American officers were. Lt. Todd was focused and intense during the missions, but they all seemed to lighten up afterward.”

“Some tactical radio transmissions, especially numbers, could be confused or unclear if passed to quickly or quietly,” said New Zealand Lance Cpl. Leydon Smith, a team leader in Todd's platoon.

Historic bonds were not lost on Soldiers as the JIATF commemorated Armistice Day and the American Veterans Day, “I feel like I am really a part of an international brotherhood in arms,” Todd explained.

“It's an honor to be here with our international partners building cooperation,” said Aspland.

One New Zealand Vietnam Veteran, Mr. Tom Palmer, donated his collection of memorabilia from the Vietnam conflict to the 25th ID museum in honor of the occasion.

“I'll never forget how glad I was to see that Lightning patch,” he reminisced.

The Combined JIATF Headquarters Operations Warrant Officer, Sarmay Brill, said of SK13, “It's great to improve our interoperability, renew

friendships and chew on the same ground our grandfathers chewed on. Although this is New Zealand's largest joint training exercise, hopefully it won't be our last.”







Photo by Spc. Antonio Huerta

1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment Soldiers pull security at their ORP during platoon evaluations Oct. 15-25. The ten-day field training exercise was designed to train and certify platoons in ambush, raid, Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO), and improve 1-14 Inf. war-fighting capabilities.



Photo by Spc. Antonio Huerta

1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment Soldiers make contact during their Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation during platoon evaluations at the Kahuku Training Area Oct. 15-25. The ten-day field training exercise was designed to train and certify platoons in ambush, raid, Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO), and improve 1-14 Inf. war-fighting capabilities.

# Operation Dragon Foothold

Story by 1st Lt. Timothy McCracken  
1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment Unit  
Public Affairs Representative

**KAHUKU TRAINING AREA, Hawaii** – Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, conducted Operation Dragon Foothold at the Kahuku Training Area Oct. 15-25. The ten-day field training exercise was designed to train and certify platoons in ambush, raid, Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO), and improve 1-14 Inf. war-fighting capabilities. More than 447 Golden Dragons took part in the training opportunity. “It was something new for us,”

said Sgt. Scott Simpson, B Co., 1-14 Inf. “These were new challenges because we had been working based on teams, battle buddy teams [and] squads, and I think we had really driven those home. One of the things we knew we were going to have issues with, and confirmed once we got out there, was having the squad leaders being led by a platoon leader instead of us just bounding our own teams. We had to wait for the go ahead from our platoon leader.”

Platoons utilized the Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System to create realistic combat

training scenarios which helped further develop the Soldiers. The MILES created battlefield casualties which enabled the Golden Dragons to practice their buddy aid and warrior first responder skill sets rehearsed prior to the training exercise.

For Pvt. Ryan Dean, B Co., 1-14 Inf., one of the greatest challenges of the exercise was navigating through the difficult terrain of the Kahukus to reach the objective.

“In between each mission, we had movements of one to two kilometers up and down hills. It’s a very humbling experience because



you’re going up a 60-degree incline hill with gravel and you’re trying your best to keep that 60-pound ruck sack on your back from pulling you back down that hill. I was really excited because this was my very first field problem. You train as you fight and you fight to win. The training was really intense. I couldn’t be happier because I didn’t sign up for it to be easy,” said Dean.

After each lane, platoons were given the chance to receive valuable feedback in the form of after action reviews from the lane evaluators on how they could have approached the mission and achieved different results.

“Once we had a chance to look back and go through some of the comments that the evaluators

had talked to us about, we realized some of the deficiencies that we could work on,” Simpson said. “While we were there, our platoon definitely bonded going through that together. It gave us a good base to know where to go from, so the next time we do platoon-level training, we’ll just be that

much further in the game.” 1-14 Inf. continues to challenge its Soldiers to become a more cohesive and adaptive unit through training events like Operation Dragon Foothold. The operation provided a solid foundation upon which 1-14 Inf. can build and helped prepare the battalion for future operations.

Photo by Spc. Antonio Huerta  
1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment Soldiers establish a support by fire position in preparation for their ambush lane during Operation Dragon Foothold Oct. 15-25.



# Warriors hold Best Sniper competition for Army, Marines, HPD

Story by Staff Sgt. Sean Everette  
2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

**SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii** – Fifteen sniper teams from all over Oahu came together at Schofield Barracks and Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Kaneohe to compete for the title Best Sniper Dec. 2 - 4. The Army was well represented with teams from the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team and the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division,

and the 728th Military Police Battalion. The Marine Corps and the Honolulu Police Department also fielded teams, making the event truly a joint experience.

“It’s consisted of three days of various shooting events to test all of the skills a sniper has,” said Pvt. 1st Class Ryan Luther, sniper section, C Co., 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. “There have been various physical events, and

it’s tested mental stamina and patience - a lot of patience.”

The Best Sniper Competition was more than just a test of skill, however. It also gave Soldiers the opportunity to work and train with other services and non-military agencies.

“We’ve talked to a lot of different teams, not only from the Army, but from the Marines and HPD,” said Luther. “We’ve gained a lot of useful information from them; how they run their teams,

**Photo by 1st Lt. Tyler Mihalic**

Staff Sgt. Rey Torres, sniper section, recon platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, and Sgt. Paul Reardon, sniper section, recon platoon, HHC, 1-27 Inf., zero in on a target during the high angle shoot as part of the Best Sniper Competition Dec. 4 at Marine Corps Base Hawaii. The competition was put together by 1-21 Inf., included teams from the Army, Marine Corps, and Honolulu Police Department. Staff Sgt. Torres and Sgt. Reardon walked away from the competition with the 1st place trophy and the title Best Sniper.



how they actually like to shoot compared to us. There are a lot of different ideas to take away and incorporate into our own training. It’s been a great opportunity.”

The competition was organized and run by Capt. Zach Baker, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 2nd SBCT. Baker filled the three days with eight events including a high angle shoot; a rapid engagement against multiple targets in short amount of time; and an eight-mile ruck march for time that went right into the stalking lane. During the stalking lane, teams were issued one

**Photo by Capt. Mark Wallace**

A sniper team from the 3rd Marines evacuates a casualty as part of the Chaos Shoot during the Best Sniper Competition Dec. 4 at Marine Corps Base Hawaii. The Chaos Shoot was final event of the competition during which teams executed a target discrimination shoot and then dragged a casualty 200 meters before engaging their final targets.



round of blank ammo and then had to move across an open field, observe their target and take a shot, then withdraw, all without being detected while four people of the opposing force were actively looking for them. The final day of the competition saw the teams inserted into the testing area via helicopter before the sun came up.

“It’s been a big challenge and definitely a huge learning event,” said Spc. Robert Gehring, sniper section, C Co., 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd SBCT.

“For us, we don’t have the ranges like the military has,” said Officer Quentin Apilando, Honolulu Police Department. “So

getting out here helps us a lot. We also don’t have some of the equipment and field [training] the military has, so coming out here helps us learn some of that too.”

At the end of the day on Dec. 4, Maj. Gen. Kurt Fuller, the 25th ID commanding general, awarded the Best Sniper trophy to the team of Staff Sgt. Rey Torres and Sgt. Paul Reardon from 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 2nd SBCT. In second place was the team of Sgt. Mark Barruga and Sgt. Ricky Madison from 1-21 Inf., 2nd SBCT. Third place was Luther and Spc. Taylor Jones from 1-27 Inf., 2nd SBCT.

# 2-11 FAR takes the lead on Big Island Training

Story by 2nd Lt. Shea Orr, 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment Unit Public Affairs Representative

**PŌHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, Hawaii** – 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment and elements from 2nd SBCT deployed to the Island of Hawaii from Aug. 17 to Sept. 22 to conduct collective training and qualify their firing platoons for future Contingency Response Force missions. In addition to 2-11 FAR, the Task Force consisted of B Co., 52nd Infantry Regiment; 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment mortars; 225 Brigade Support Battalion; and all Fire Support Teams from across the brigade. The training consisted of dry and live fire exercises from

section to platoon-level. The training was integrated into two events; the Best Fire Support Team (FiST) Competition, and a Fire Support Coordination Exercise.

Best FiST was a round robin competition taking place over an average of 24 hours amongst the fire support teams to train and test the Fire Supporters. The competition began with an APFT and was followed by an 18-mile foot march consisting of stations that tested the FiST Teams on their artillery proficiency skills. The first place team, C Troop, 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, completed the event in just over 18 hours.



“It’s good training,” said Staff Sgt. Kyle Smith, C/2-14’s FiST NCO. “It’s good to see how my guys react under stress and identify where we are weak. Overall, though, we were able to push through it and came out a stronger team.”

They were awarded the Army Commendation Medal as well as the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team coin, presented by Col. Thomas Mackey, the 2nd Brigade commander.

The Fire Support Coordination Exercise, set to a defensive scenario, was the major event of 2-11 FAR’s deployment.

“The defensive live fire scenario provided us with a great



Photo by 2nd Lt. Shea Orr  
Section chief Staff Sgt. Andrew Hudman inspects a round and propellant prior to firing during Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment’s table XII certification and qualification. 2-11 FAR and elements from the brigade deployed to Pōhakuloa Training Area on the island of Hawai’i from Aug. 17 to Sept. 22 to conduct collective training and qualify platoons for future Contingency Response Force missions.

Photo by 2nd Lt. Shea Orr

A Bravo Battery section from 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, fires illumination rounds in support of the Defensive Live Fire Scenario.



opportunity to establish common operating practices with our habitually supported infantry battalion, the Gimlets,” said Capt. Daniel Mahoney, commander of Bravo Battery, 2-11 FAR. “In addition to building on this already strong relationship, the ‘shoot and scoot’ nature of the exercise challenged our Soldiers and leaders to think and fire in a challenging, realistic situation.”

The exercise simulated one of the brigade’s infantry battalions defending the provincial capital of a disputed region against an enemy mechanized force. The unit conducted three iterations, one for each infantry battalion in the BCT. The defending force consisted of company and battalion Fire Support Teams, B/52, one troop from 2-14 CAV, a firing battery from 2-11 FAR, and two Scout Weapons Teams from 2-6 CAV. Integrating the M777A2 Howitzer, Mobile Gun System Stryker, FGM-148 Javelin, mounted Anti-Tank Guided Missile, and OH-58s, Task Force 2-11 FAR successfully destroyed

the enemy on the field of battle.

“In order to maximize the effects of fires on the battlefield, you must employ all of your fire support assets in concert with one another,” said Maj. Bob Ross, 2-11 FAR operations officer. “Conducting integrated training across the brigade is the key to learning how to utilize each weapon system effectively.”

2-11 FAR is the first in a series of 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team battalions to conduct training at Pōhakuloa Training Area. Over the course of the next few months, all of the brigade’s infantry battalions will rotate through PTA and build upon the lessons learned. 2-11 FAR will rotate a battery with each of these infantry battalion rotations to train the integration of fire support.

Photo by 2nd Lt. Shea Orr

Spc. Anthony Dominguez, Pfc. Eric Espinoza, and Spc. Adam Abeyta from Alpha Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment’s fire direction center compute accurate firing solutions.





Photo by Sgt. Daniel Johnson

Spc. Brandon Russell, a combat medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, carries Spc. Keshia Jackson, a signal support systems specialist with HHC, 225th Brigade Support Battalion, to cover after performing life saving medical care at the Best Medic Competition at East Range on Dec. 10. The Best Medic Competition uses Expert Field Medical Badge testing criteria to determine the most capable medic in the competition.

## 2nd SBCT medics test for the best

Story by Sgt. Daniel K. Johnson  
2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

**SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii** – Soldiers from across the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division gathered here and on East Range Dec. 9 - 13 to compete for the title of Best Medic.

The testing is based directly on the Expert Field Medical Badge testing guidelines so that Soldiers are afforded a to-standard practice run before the EFMB testing is conducted early next year.

“This is the EFMB,” said Spc. Brandon Russell, a combat medic with Headquarters and

Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd SBCT. “The lanes, critical skills, grading and evaluation are all based on the 350-10 for the EFMB. If we are studying that and performing these lanes correctly, we are going to be fine for the EFMB.”

The Best Medic Competition spans three days and covers basic Soldiers skills as well as specialized medical training.

“The competition begins with land navigation, both day and night, as well as a written test on the first day,” said 1st Lt. Jonathan Boggs, the officer in charge of the trauma lane events. “The second day consists of a four-event trauma

lane, and will end on the third day with a 12-mile foot-march.”

Boggs said the trauma lane is what really lays the groundwork the medics need to succeed in the EFMB, and gives them a chance to show what they know.

“It gives them the chance to show off to the brigade their skills as a medic and earn the coveted title of Best Medic in the brigade.”

The lane not only tested knowledge, but the Soldiers’ abilities to deal with stress in a combat environment. With casualties screaming for help and artillery simulators blasting in the distance, it is as close to a real life situation as possible.

“I learned how important it is to be prepared, as well as having patience,” said Russell. “There is a lot going on and pacing yourself no matter what distractions are going on around you will help you keep your head in the game.”

“This entire event is what it means to be a medic. This is what medics do. This is what they get paid for,” said Boggs. “They go out and treat casualties that have been wounded in combat and prepare them for the next echelon of care.”

“Coming on the first casualty was the most stressful,” said Russell. “Once I had finished with the first, I had confidence building and was able to work through the events more easily.”

This competition, as well as

the EFMB early next year, is vital for young medics seeking to advance their careers.

“With the wars winding down in Afghanistan, the EFMB is something these Soldiers may need to get promoted in the future,” said Boggs. “It sets them apart from their peers.”

His unit is doing everything possible to set him up for success, said Russell. The Best Medic Competition, as well as small unit training based upon the EFMB field manual, is conducted regularly to ensure the Soldiers’ success.

“This is just the tip of the iceberg as far as training for the EFMB is concerned,” said Boggs. “It is up to the Soldiers and their units to make sure they prepare for the EFMB.”

Sgt. Stephen Sprague, 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd SBCT, claimed the Best Medic title. Spc. Timothy Anderson, 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, and Pfc. Michael Murphy, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, came in second and third respectively.



Photo by Sgt. Daniel Johnson

Spc. Brandon Russell, a combat medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, provides medical attention to an eye injury on Pvt. Stephanie Otero, a motor transport operator with A Co., 225th Brigade Support Battalion during the Best Medic Competition at East Range on Dec. 10. The Best Medic Competition uses Expert Field Medical Badge testing criteria to determine the most capable medic in the competition.





## 2nd SBCT awards top performers

By Staff Sgt. Sean Everette  
2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

**SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii** – The 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division held a ceremony on Oct. 30 to recognize its top performers. Col. Thomas Mackey, 2nd SBCT commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Crosby, 2nd SBCT's senior noncommissioned officer, were both on hand to present the awards in front of an audience that packed the Sgt. Smith Theater.

First recognized were four civilians whose efforts either helped further or greatly enhance the brigade mission.

Matt Matunas from the Directorate of Human Resources, Retirement Services, was recognized for the outstanding work his section did during fiscal year 2013. The Retirement Services Office processed more than 90 voluntary retirements, unqualified resignations, and chapters, assisting Soldiers and their families with a smooth transition.

David Patterson from the Directorate of Human Resources, Enlisted Reassignments, was recognized for his section's tireless dedication to helping Soldiers, whether active duty, National Guard, or Reserves, throughout the Pacific area of responsibility.

Lena Andrestsopoulos is the Schofield Barracks Range Scheduler for all of Oahu and handles all of the military and civilian scheduling for Schofield Barracks' ranges. She was recognized for her hard work ensuring maximum training time was allotted for 2nd SBCT's Soldiers. Her professionalism and dedication allowed 2nd SBCT to maintain an average of 98% of ranges utilized for fiscal year 2013.

Sophia Hoskin, a Military Family Life Consultant, was recognized for her hard work and dedication to providing counseling for 2nd SBCT's Soldiers and families. Ms. Hoskin is leaving Schofield

Barracks and heading back to the mainland with her family.

Col. Mackey established an incentive program to recognize Soldiers within our ranks whose accomplishments have a positive impact on 2nd SBCT and our mission. The program is called "Warriors of the Week." The following Soldiers were awarded the Army Commendation Medal for their outstanding performance, tactical prowess, technical expertise, and unwavering determination, earning them the title "Warrior of the Week" amongst their peers.

From 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment:

Sgt. Kyle Doubler  
Spc. Ellis Montoya  
Spc. Rainey Decker  
Pfc. John Parsons

From 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment:

Sgt. Gary Wagner  
Spc. James Sumner  
Pfc. Carlos Ortega  
Pvt. Wesley Merriwether

From 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment:

Cpl. Joshua Parrish  
Spc. Joshua Derossett  
Spc. Zachary Fuhr  
Spc. Matthew Mizcynski

From 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment:

Sgt. 1st Class Edward Jenkins  
Staff Sgt. Logan Maile  
Spc. Dellana Carlson  
Spc. Ianpeter Liu

From 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment:

Sgt. 1st Class Esteban Reyes  
Staff Sgt. Allen Wright  
Sgt. Stephen Jelinek  
Spc. Joshua Kerekes  
Spc. Rebekah Ronin

From 225th Brigade Support Battalion:

Sgt. Rodger Jachim  
Sgt. Joseph Roy  
Sgt. Jessie Simmons  
Spc. Snooky Calambro  
Spc. Brian Coleman  
Streamers are decorations attached to military flags to recognize particular achievements or events of a military unit or service. Attached to the headpiece of the assigned flag, the streamer often is an inscribed ribbon with the name and date denoting participation, and outstanding performance in a particular event.

The Top Retention Streamer was awarded to Staff Sgt. Michelle Vereen, 225th BSB's career counselor. She was the only counselor in 2nd SBCT to meet all assigned retention mission objectives for Initial, Mid-Career, and Careerist reenlistments for fiscal year 2013 and the beginning of fiscal year 2014. She effectively managed her program, resulting in her battalion surpassing its assigned mission under very limited retention options.

The Best Fire Support Team Streamer was awarded to 1st Lt. Michael Gillcrist, Staff Sgt. Kyle Smith, and Spc. Christopher Gonzalez from C Troop, 2-14 Cav. This FiST team excelled in the eleven-event Best FiST Competition held at Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island of Hawaii. The events were mentally and physically taxing, and many teams had to work on a 24-hour cycle to accomplish their missions. This team from C Troop, 2-14 CAV proved their capabilities to train beyond the standard and achieve

success amongst their peers.

The Top Stryker Main Gun System Streamer was awarded to Sgt. 1st Class Charles Harris, Sgt. Vincent Sigrah, and Spc. Sonny Vega of C Co., 1-27 Inf. These Soldiers from the "Coldsteel" company qualified as "Top Gun" in the brigade's consolidated MGS gunnery. The crew qualified as "distinguished" with eight out of ten engagements and a total score of 927 out of 1,000. Vega was also identified as the top driver in the brigade. The crew's hard work and dedication serves as an example for other Stryker crews in the brigade to emulate.

The Week of the Warrior Overall Champion Streamer was awarded to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-21 Inf. The Gimlets gained hard earned respect from the breadth of talent within the brigade. They worked hard in preparation for and during the Week of the Warrior, consistently performing at or near the top in most events, sustaining the Gimlet heritage and winning tradition.



